

From 1994 to 1997, the percent of white perch landed with haul seines never fell below 1.5% (Table A37). However, since 1997 white perch landed with haul seines have declined and have not risen above 0.3%.

Yellow Perch (Perca flavescens)

Yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) have been identified for the future development of a state fishery management plan in North Carolina. Yellow perch are primarily a freshwater species and range from Hudson Bay to South Carolina. Yellow perch can reach a length of almost 12 inches (Jenkins and Burkhead 1993). In North Carolina, the majority of yellow perch (97%) are harvested from Albemarle Sound and its tributaries.

The number of yellow perch dealers fluctuated but exhibited no overall change from 1994 to 2002. The number of dealers have been declining since 2000 (Figure 42). The number of dealers ranged from a minimum of 38 in 2002 to a maximum of 64 in 1996 (Table 53). The number of fishermen, and vessels participating in the yellow perch fishery have both followed similar patterns and show a similar overall rate of decline from 1994 to 2002 (Figure 42). The number of fishermen, and vessels have been steadily declining since 1999. The number of fishermen ranged from a minimum of 220 in 2002 to a maximum of 399 in 1997 (Table 53). The number of vessels ranged from a minimum of 275 in 2002 to a maximum of 506 in 1996.

Yellow perch landings exhibited an overall increase from 1994 to 2002 (Figure 43). Landings peaked in 1999 but have been declining since that time. During the 1994 to 2002 period, landings of yellow perch ranged from a minimum of 54,000 pounds in 1996 to a maximum of 114,000 pounds in 1999 (Table 53). The number of trips reporting landings of yellow perch have fluctuated but exhibited a slow overall decrease (Figure 43). The number of trips peaked in 1999 but have been steadily declining since that time. However, in the Perquimans River, the number of trips have been increasing since 1999 because of the availability of yellow perch during their spawning migration up the river to and past Hertford (M. Loeffler, NCDMF, personal communication). The number of trips ranged from a minimum of 3,167 in 2002 to a maximum of 5,651 in 1999 (Table 53).